

October 07, 2014

## TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE REPORT

A Transportation Committee meeting was held on Tuesday, October 07, 2014 at 6:00 p.m. in the County Administration Building, Quorum Court Meeting Room, 215 East Central, Bentonville, Arkansas

Committee Members Present: Curry, McKenzie, K. Harrison, Adams, Anglin, Moore

Others Present: JPs Moehring, Meyers, County Judge Bob Clinard, Public Service Director Jeff Clark, Assessor Glenn “Bear” Chaney

Media: Tom Sissom

JP Curry called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

### **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

None

Administrator of Public Services Jeff Clark presented the Benton County Road Department’s 2015 Road Plan. Jeff Clark stated that the majority of the roads are connector roads. He stated that they are planning on three projects with a price tag of \$779,340 to be state aid projects. He stated that the county has another \$2.2 million in paving work, and that if all of the projects are done, the county will be paving 57 miles of roads next year.

Lengthy discussion was held on the Benton County Road Department’s 2015 Road Plan.

JP Anglin stated that in looking at the list that she did not see anything that is connected to the school project at Centerton.

Jeff Clark stated that until we find out exactly what they are requiring, we are not going to touch it. He stated that we are aware that we are going to have to do something, but we are going to have to wait until they tell us what we are going to have to do.

County Judge Bob Clinard stated that they have the traffic study. He said it identified the problem areas as the entrances and exits onto and off of the highway and that the county already knew that.. He added it was not specific, and that it did not tell us what we needed to do.

County Judge Bob Clinard stated that he has not committed the county to doing any work in connection with the school.

JP Anglin stated that the county has to have information as part of the budget process, that decisions about the county’s road paving program and other issues will be affected by the school. She added we have to know something for budget time.

Lengthy discussion was held on receiving more information from the School District and Centerton before the Road Department could prepare for the budget process.

County Judge Bob Clinard stated that someone, most likely the School District, will need to have an engineer do the design work on the entrances, exits and connections with the state highways as a first step, so that we can put a dollar to the work to be done.

Further discussion was held for a traffic study to be done with the roads surrounding the school and the road work that would be the county's responsibility.

JP Moehring stated that if the City of Centerton knew enough to know to start working on their roads to accommodate the new high school, and are moving forward with a plan, he was not sure why the county was not moving forward with a plan. He said that he was concerned how the county is going to get the roads done. He stated that the "clock is ticking" and we are less than two years from the opening of the new school.

Jeff Clark stated with the information that the county has received, that they have nothing but a guess to what road work needs to be done.

More discussion was held on the 2015 Road Plan presented to the court.

County Judge Bob Clinard stated that they have about \$1.048 for state-aid projects at this time and that they will receive another \$343,000 in July or August and that we have to spend \$370,000 by June 1<sup>st</sup> or lose it.

County Judge Bob Clinard reported that the county's fleet of road graders is aging and that money will be needed to replace a number of the road graders in the next few years. He stated that at this time the Road Department has 10 graders with 10,000+ hours on them that need to be replaced. He stated that it is his goal to buy five in 2015 and another five in 2016.

JP Moore stated that the county has financed road graders in the past and suggested that method could be used again. He said that with money as cheap as it is, he did not know why they have stopped. He added that the county should be using some of its share of the \$1.2 million they get from state sales tax and spending about one-third of that on equipment.

### **Adjournment**

After motion and second the meeting adjourned at 7:04 p.m.